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AIHA® Releases Corrosive Drywall White Paper  
AIHA identifies the problem and promotes the use of science to address the issue  

FAIRFAX, VA, (October 13, 2010) — The American Industrial Hygiene Association® (AIHA) has announced the release of the white paper on corrosive drywall. The document serves to identify the problems posed by corrosive drywall, as well as the role of science in understanding the resulting safety and health issues. This AIHA White Paper on the corrosive drywall problem was developed by the Corrosive Drywall Project Team comprising members of the Construction and Indoor Environmental Quality Committees and is additionally sponsored by AIHA’s Biosafety and Environmental Microbiology Committee.

Corrosive drywall (CDW) was installed in tens of thousands of individual homes as well as larger buildings as early as 2001. Most of these structures are located in, but not limited to, Florida, Louisiana, and Virginia. While some builders have remediated CDW by replacing all drywall in homes, many homeowners and builders are waiting for funding and verification of more efficient repair methods.

Medical studies evaluating the health of persons residing in CDW homes are limited. The physicians considered study findings preliminary and recommended further research. No studies are currently underway to evaluate this significant public concern.

To address the concerns regarding the use and handling of CDW, AIHA is urging immediate scientific research to address the following areas of uncertainty:

(a) Etiologic mechanisms for the release of sulfide gases
(b) Emission rates and duration
(c) Characterization of specific chemicals in emissions and their potential contribution to corrosion, odor, and irritation
(d) How emissions change over time and under varying environmental conditions
(e) Occupant health risks (requires clinical and epidemiologic study)
(f) Operational implications of electrical and mechanical components with and without blackening
(g) Worker exposure during CDW demolition and cleanup

For more information regarding the White Paper on Corrosive Drywall, please contact Aaron Trippler at (703) 846-0730 or atrippler@aiha.org. To read the document in its entirety, including CDW evaluation and recommendations, please locate the white paper at http://www.aiha.org/news-pubs/govtaffairs/Documents/W-Corrosive%20Drywall-10-10-10.pdf.
Founded in 1939, the **American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)** is the premier association of occupational and environmental health and safety professionals. AIHA’s 10,240 members play a crucial role on the front line of worker health and safety every day. Members represent a cross-section of industry, private business, labor, government and academia.